

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 H-02

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 100850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1772

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2250

BEIRUT POUCH USINT BAGHDAD

DEPARTMENT PASS ADDEES REFTEL AS DESIRED

E. O. 116521 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US, IR

SUBJ: U. S. POLICY TOWARD IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 0149

SUMMARY: WHILE WE COMMEND EFFORT OF USINT BAGHDAD (REFTEL) IN PUTTING FORWARD HOPEFUL PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH BAGHDAD REGIME, WE ARE NOT PERSUADED THAT AT THIS TIME SUGGESTIONS ADVANCED WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT. MOREOVER, USG EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN MORE CONSTRUCTIVE IRAQI ELEMENTS COULD OCCASION MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE USG BASIC AIMS TOWARD IRAQ BOTH IN IRAN AND PERHAPS IN OTHER MODERATE AREA STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. WE SYMPATHIZE WITH COMMENDABLE ATTEMPT BY USINT BAGHDAD TO ADVANCE IDEAS FOR HANDLING THE DILEMMA PRESENTED TO USG BY CURRENT REGIME IN BAGHDAD. THAT REGIME IS UNREMITTINGLY EXTREMIST AND RELENTLESSLY HOSTILE TO AMERICAN INTERESTS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS ANOTHER IRAQ COMPOSED OF LESS DOCTRINAIRE ELEMENTS WITH WHICH, IF THEY COULD ACHIEVE POWER, WE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BUILD MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS. BUT
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WE ARE FRANKLY SKEPTICAL THAT IN PRACTICE WE COULD HELP THE MODERATES WITHOUT BUILDING UP OUR EXTREMIST ENEMIES, AND WE FEAR THAT OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA WOULD NOT TAKE KINDLY TO WHAT APPEARED TO THEM TO BE AMERICAN COUNTRING OF THOROUGHLY IRRESPONSIBLE REGIME.

2. AS SEEN FROM TEHRAN, WE ARE UNEASY ABOUT HAVING USG ACTIONS TOWARDS IRAQ MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. SHAH IS DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT REGIME IN BAGHDAD, WHICH HE CONSIDERS IN LEAGUE WITH MOSCOW TO HARM IRANIAN INTERESTS AND SUBVERT WEAKER STATES IN IMPORTANT PERSIAN GULF AREA. FURTHER, FRIENDLY USG GESTURE TO BAGHDAD AT THIS TIME OF IRAQI BULLYING OF KUWAIT MIGHT VERY WELL BE CALCULATINGLY ACCEPTED BY BAGHDAD AND THEN POINTED TO, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, AS A SIGN THAT THE USG IS NOT REALLY VERY UPSET BY RECENT INCIDENTS ON THE IRAQI- KUWAITI BORDER. FORTHCOMING USG GESTURES TOWARDS BAGHDAD, PARTICULARLY NOW, IT WOULD A LSD# ALMOST CERTAINLY BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE AND

COMPLICATE OUR RELATIONS WITH SHAH.

3. IT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE TO SHOOT DOWN USINT BAGHDAD' S EFFORTS TO KHART AMERICAN- IRAQI RELATIONS ON A MORE HOPEFUL COURSE. BUT WE DO URGE THAT EACH USG GESTURE BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF (A) WHETHER IRAQI EXTREMISTS MIGHT BE ABLE DELIBERATELY TO MISCONSTRUE GESTURE TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE AND (B) WHETHER GESTURE WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY OUR MODERATE FRIENDS IN THE AREA.

HELMS

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED.

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